

A

LETTER

TO A

NOBLE LORD,

CONTAINING, A

NEW DISCOVERY

OF

The Scandalous and Pernicious Practice of Running of Goods from *France*, which has lately been carried on beyond all Example, to the great Prejudice of his Majesty's Customs, and the very great Danger of bringing the P---- into these Kingdoms.

BY A GENTLEMAN.

L O N D O N,

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B*Y what Means the Public comes to be troubled with a LETTER, originally intended for his Grace the D— of N—, will naturally be inquired, and may be proper to inform the indulgent Reader. The following Observations on the pernicious Practices of the Smugglers at Boulogne, were made by two English Gentlemen who resided some time in that Town, having been forced away from their Country by the Vicissitudes of Fortune, and the iniquitous Arts of designing Men. There they had daily an Opportunity of remarking, and even of inquiring, into every Step and Measure with which this destructive Commerce (if Commerce we can call it) is conducted, in Defiance of the Laws of Great Britain. Upon the Settling of their Affairs, towards the Close of the last Spring, these Gentlemen returned to England, where they have since communicated to their Friends the Observations and Discoveries made during their Exile. These were found to be of such*

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weighty

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weighty Importance, by the impartial Judgment of some who are well acquainted with commercial Matters, as to deserve to be laid before his Grace the D--- of N----- for the general Good of the Nation. In consequence of a repeated Solicitation from their Friends, they applied to a Gentleman of distinguished Merit in the City, who undertook to communicate them to a Person of Rank in one of the Branches of the Administration, in order to have his private Opinion, before they were laid before the Minister. This Person approved of their Zeal, as likewise of their Hints for remedying of the Abuse; but added, That as the Attention of the Government is at present taken up with Matters of greater Moment in this critical Conjunction, when we are at the Eve of a War with our potent and ambitious Neighbour, it would be unreasonable to trouble his Grace with Matters of less Importance. Finding therefore, that an Application to those at the Helm would be of no Service at present, they have ventured to submit their Remarks to the public Examination, hoping that they will be of some Service hereafter, when the present Disputes
with

ADVERTISEMENT.

with France shall come to be settled. In the mean time, perhaps they will help to convince every impartial Briton of the indefatigable Endeavours used by the French to prejudice our Commerce, and of the just Resentment of those who have the Direction of our public Affairs, against the perfidious Behaviour of that restless Nation.



To the MOST NOBLE

* * * * *

THIS

SHORT SKETCH,

CONTAINING

A VIEW of the clandestine Trade now carried on at *Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk*, not only in *Tea and Brandy*, but likewise in *Wool*, in defiance of the Laws of *England*, is humbly presented by

Your GRACE'S most

dutiful, and most obedient,

humble Servants,

March 25, 1755.

W. M. ●.



May it please your GRACE,

TH E Town and Harbour of *Boulogne* in *France*, has been so enlarged and enriched within the compass of twenty-five or thirty Years, that whereas Fishermens Boats, and such-like Trading-vessels as were then employed to and from *Boulogne*, used to anchor near to the Church of *St. Nicholas*, they have now on the same Spot opened handsome Streets, built a great number of Merchants Houses, a commodious Key, with a large stone Pier, and rendered the Harbour capable, at Spring-tides, of sending out Ships of three hundred Tons Burden. This Pier was begun about fourteen Years ago, not by the Government, but by the the Merchants trading with the *English* Smugglers, who petitioned the Court, That a Tax might be laid on their Consumption of Beer and

B

Brandy

Brandy for a Term of fourteen Years, to enable the Town to defray the Expences of clearing the Harbour, which was then like to be choked up. Accordingly; they obtained an Act of Council for that purpose, and an Engineer was sent to direct and complete the Work, the Expence of which amounted to about fifteen thousand Pounds *Sterling*. Thus there is great Reason to believe that the Harbour of *Boulogne*, almost choked up as it was in the Year 1740, would have continued in the same ruinous Condition, had it not been for the *English* Smugglers, who, about the Years 1737, 1738, and 1739, flocked over in such Numbers, that it began to resemble an *English* Colony. Upon this Success, these Enemies of their Country grew so insolent, that they had Vessels built from fifty to one hundred Tons burden, and went so strongly armed, that they often fought their Way, if they happened to meet with Opposition.

Here we must beg leave to exhibit to Your GRACE, a summary View of

of the Method and Proceedings of the Smugglers about the Year 1739, because we apprehend it will shew what Steps the *French* have taken to encourage and support this clandestine Trade. On the one hand, these Men used to come on Shore with a Sack of Money thrown over a Pole, to the Amount of a thousand Pounds *Sterling*, very often fifteen hundred Guineas, or more, to purchase Tea and Brandy. On the other hand, the *French* studied to humour and please them, and gave them the Name of *Guinea-Men*, from bringing over such a Number of Guineas. Such was the Indulgence shewn them on all Occasions by the *French*, that they used to call *Boulogne* the *Land of Liberty*; for the Commandant had Orders to connive at any Folly or Insolence they were guilty of; and the civil Magistrates behaved with the same Lenity to them, because it was these very Magistrates that supplied them with Tea and Brandy. Thus they continued to triumph in their illegal Practices from the Year 1737, to 1744, when

the legislative Power thought fit to interpose, and passed an Act, the 18th of George II. cap. 26. which puts a Duty of only one Shilling *per* Pound Weight, and 25 *per Cent. ad Valorem* of the gross Price, at which the Tea shall be sold at the public Sale of the *East-India* Company. It was generally expected that this Act of Parliament would effectually have stopped the smuggling Trade, as it made so great a Reduction in the Price of our own ordinary Tea: But the contrary is too evident. And though this illicit trade was in some measure carried on during the War, the *French* Privateers having had Orders not to molest them, yet those of our own Nation not proving so civil, towards the Close of the War we had very near destroyed this iniquitous Commerce. However upon the Proclamation of the Peace, they soon appeared again, though in a different Shape; for, instead of large Vessels, made to fight their Way, they had Cutters built on purpose for Running, of so fine a Mould, and made so complete for sailing, that
few

few Vessels are able to come up with them.

The Expence of Building and Rigging each of these Cutters amounts to between three and four hundred Pounds *Sterling*. They are employed in no other Trade, but in running of Tea and Brandy from *Boulogne*, *Calais*, and *Dunkirk*. As to the Smugglers themselves, they are not the People who risque those Cutters, neither are they the People who pay for building them: No, my LORD, this is done by the *French* Merchants, who are Sharers in all, or most of the Cutters employed in this clandestine Commerce. It is therefore the more extraordinary, that when Seizures are made, the Custom-house Officers do not take the Boats, as well as the Tea and Brandy, and burn or destroy them, as directed by Act of Parliament. But in that respect, our Officers on the *Kent* and *Sussex* Coast, practise a Politeness or Indulgence of a most singular nature.

W.

We have seen since *September* last, Ten or Twelve, nay Fourteen of these Cutters come into *Boulogne* Harbour in one Tide, and daily Three or Four. Nay we can safely affirm, that not a Day in the Year passës, but there is this Number coming in and going out, loaded with Tea and Brandy ; infomuch that a Stranger would be almost perswaded to think it a lawful Employ, seeing them pass so frequently unmolested.

Notwithstanding what some People may think of the ruined Condition of the Smugglers, from the Numbers hanged and transported ; permit us, my LORD, to give an Account of the present Quantity of Tea and Brandy, which is annually run from the Town of *Boulogne*. This Port was so little and so insignificant Twenty-five Years ago, that it did not defray the Expences of keeping a Custom-house ; for which reason every Six Weeks a Sum of Money used to be sent from *Amiens*, to pay the Charges of Custom-house Officers, &c. But now the Case is altered, for the *English* Smugglers have occasioned

occasioned such a Trade, by carrying over to them *English* Wool, and *English* Money, and by running Tea and Brandy, beside Hollands, - Cambricks, and *French East-India* Goods, into *England*, that now every Six Weeks the Farmer-general sends down a Chaise marine from *Amiens*, to take off the Surplus-money paid in for Duties and Customs of the Port of *Boulogne*.

It is by means of this Trade, my LORD, that the *French East-India* Company flourishes : It is by means of the Tea smuggled into *England* that the Company's Actions bear so high a Price, and that the Number of Ships annually employed in their Trade has increased from Two to Six Ships since the Year 1748 ; it is by means of this clandestine Trade that the Inhabitants of *Boulogne* became enabled to charge themselves with a Duty on Beer and Brandy, to the Amount of Fifteen thousand Pounds *Sterling*, in order to make a better Harbour, and to build a new Pier. Thus the *French* (besides opening of *Dunkirk* Harbour) are now possessed of one more valuable Port within the Chanel, whereby

whereby they are enabled to annoy our Merchants Ships by their Privateers, and, at the same time, to give Shelter to the trading Vessels of their own Nation, as they did the last War.

Here we beg Leave to remind your GRACE, that it was this new made Harbour which sheltered upwards of Two Hundred armed Vessels in that critical Time of the Year 1745 and 1746, which Vessels were sent from *St. Malo, Dieppe, Dunkirk, &c.* and actually rendezvoused one whole Month in the Harbour of *Boulogne*, to take on board 16,000 Men, who were there ready to embark---On this Occasion it is melancholy to observe, that the Smugglers were the Persons intended by the *French* to pilot those Troops over to the *Kent* or *Suffex* Coasts; and particularly Two of the most experienced of those Traitors, who then lay in the Harbour with their Cutters to take in Tea and Brandy, were carried up to *Paris*, and passed an Examination as Pilots before the *French* Ministry; though, for Appearance sake, Monsieur Commissary *Deske*, who had

had been a Prisoner in *Dover-Castle* *, was to have had the Honour of being the Pilot. During all this Parade or Farce, our Fleet was detained in the *Downs* by contrary Winds.

In this part of our Account, your GRACE may think we have digressed too far from the Point we set out with, namely the smuggling Trade: But as these Men were thought worthy of being employed in that Affair, and were willing Hands, we hope it will not appear altogether foreign to our Design. If any Doubt should arise as to the Truth and Probability of what has been here asserted, we are ready to prove the Whole, whenever your GRACE will please to admit us to an Audience. We are ready likewise to prove, that Four Hundred Tons of

* They had a fair Wind one Night, and might have slipped over and landed, but their Hearts fail'd 'em. The Inhabitants thought the Troops were embarked and gone, for they were ordered not to stir out of their Houses that Night on pain of Death. The *French* told us, that the first Step would be to seize *Dover-Castle*; but that they were in some doubt whether the *Irish* Brigades would stand by 'em after they were landed, tho' they seemed such flaming hot Partizans whilst they breathed *French* Air.

C

Tea,

Tea, and Four thousand Pipes of Brandy, were run last Year from the Port of *Boulogne* only, upon the *Kent* and *Sussex* Coast.

This we hope will be thought deserving of farther Notice ; and that you will permit us to wait upon your GRACE, in order to propose a Scheme for remedying the abovementioned Evil ; which Scheme we humbly apprehend ourselves qualified to undertake.

It may not be improper further to acquaint your GRACE, that the *French* have their earliest Intelligence from this most dangerous Set of People ; for the Smugglers who come with their Cutters to *Boulogne*, from the *Isle of Wight*, from *Portsmouth*, *Sandwich*, *Deal*, and *Dover*, are generally able to give a pretty good Account of what is going forward in the King's Yards, even from *Portsmouth* to *Deptford*. We ourselves have seen upon the late Rumour of War, the Commandant, and the Mayor of *Boulogne*, Alderman *James Coilliot*, and Monsieur *John L' Sabboniere*, watching every Tide for the
coming

coming in of the Smugglers, who were directly taken to the Mayor's House, and closely examined as to the Number and Preparations of the Men of War at *Spit-head*, the *Downs*, &c. which Intelligence was immediately sent to *Brest* or *Paris*.

It may be equally proper, on this Occasion, to represent to your GRACE the different Conduct of the *Excise*-Officers upon the River *Thames*, from that of the *Custom-House* Officers upon the *Kent* and *Sussex* Coast. The former are very scrupulous when they board a Vessel off *Tilbury*, whether a poor Sailor has any more than one or two Case-Bottles of Brandy, or more than one or two Pounds Weight of Tea: The latter, by a Mystery which we do not pretend to explain, can suffer four hundred Tons of Tea, and four thousand Pipes of Brandy, to be annually run from the opposite Shore, *viz.* from the Town of *Boulogne*, which may be as easy to prevent, as it is to collect the Tolls of a Turnpike.

Upon the whole, my LORD, we are certain, from the Observations which we have carefully made, that the Harbour of *Boulogne*, and the clandestine Trade carried on from thence, are of that dangerous Consequence which we have endeavoured to point out, and that the present Method of looking after the Smugglers, is, and in its Nature must be unequal to the End proposed by the Legislature, as from the great Quantity of run Goods, and from the small Number of Seizures, manifestly appears. We are confident also, from the Remarks we have carefully made on the Steps which the Smugglers actually take to elude the present Officers, and we are moreover able to prove it to your GRACE, that with fifty Men, and only three Boats, under our Command and Direction, we could hinder the Port of *Boulogne* from being frequented by the Smugglers; and that by the same Method the Ports of *Calais* and *Dunkirk* might be rendered useless; by which means this pernicious Commerce would be in a great measure extinguished.

'Tis

'Tis but about a Month ago since we left the Town of *Boulogne*, and then most of the labouring People were employed in making Half-Anchors and Casks, Oil-skin Bags and Slings, and in carrying down Goods to the Key, *viz.* Tea and Brandy to the Smugglers; at the same time the Shop-keepers were all employ'd in selling them *Flanders* Linen, *East-India* Goods, Cambrics, &c; as likewise the Merchants and their Clerks, in picking out all the silver Money of standard Weight to send to *Paris*, and the light Money to send back to *England*, in order to get Guineas in exchange, whereby they gain about one and a half *per Cent*, besides their Profits in dealing with the Smugglers, to the annual Amount of 150,000 *l. Sterling*. In this manner a Trade, so apparently productive of Mischiefs to *England*, and of Advantages to *France*, hath been increasing ever since the Year 1748; but we flatter ourselves, that effectual Means will be taken to suppress it, when your GRACE shall become once thoroughly acquainted with the Truth of this Memorial, which we again

repeat

repeat we are ready to prove in every Article.

The *French* Merchants themselves acknowledge, that they never sold so much Tea and Brandy as they did the last Year, 1754; and yet this Year, unless some Stop is put to the Trade, is very likely to exceed the last in Quantity.

During the Months of *September* and *October*, 1754, came in their last Year's Sale of Tea from *Port L'Orient*, the Quantity of which was really amazing to behold: But, what is of greater Consequence to us, all this large Quantity is likely to be run upon the *Kent* and *Sussex* Coast, before next *September's* Sale comes on. As a Proof of which we can assure your GRACE, from our own certain Knowledge, that the *Boulogne* Merchants had no Tea left last Year to supply the Smugglers, from the latter end of *August*, but were forced to wait till the middle of *October* for the Arrival of the *East-India* Company's Tea, as above-mentioned.

WE

WE are sensible, indeed, my LORD, that some Seizures are made; but the Smugglers themselves admit, that if double the Quantity of Tea and Brandy was seised, they still could bear it; for they say they have made Calculations, that they are able to continue the Trade, and to afford to lose a Cargo once in five times; tho', as things are now managed, they own they do not lose a Cargo once in twenty times.

How these Smugglers come to meet with such Indulgence, is a Myſtery impenetrable to us: But if a reasonable Method can be pointed out for ſuppreſſing them, and for hindering 300,000 *l.* ready Money, as well as a large Quantity of Wool, from being annually ſent to *France*, we humbly conceive that your GRACE will in ſuch Caſe be very ready to embrace it.

From the great Succeſs the *French* have had in Smuggling of their own Tea from *Boulogne* and *Calais*, they have, ſince the Peace of 1748, prohibited all *Dutch* Teas

Teas from coming into *France*. It is likewise from the same Success, that the *French East-India* Company have so vastly increased the Quantity of Tea which they yearly bring from *India*.

This Company's Actions indeed, like other Funds, are affected by the Appearance of War; but if they are permitted to throw into *England*, as now they do, almost all the Teas which they import from *India*, their Actions will continue to bear a very high Price. And this, without doubt, is the Motive which has already induced many *British* Subjects to withdraw their Money from our Funds, and to buy up their Actions, where they get near 6 *per Cent*. Now, as all these Mischiefs, which *England* but too sensibly feels, are intirely owing to the Strength and Success of this illegal Commerce, we humbly hope, my LORD, that if it can be kept under, or in a great measure suppressed by fifty Men, and three Boats only, and, in consequence thereof, the *French* Company's Actions be reduced to a low Ebb, perhaps to 1100 Livres, or less,

less, the Expences attending the Appointment of fifty Men, and three boats, will be considered as a very easy Method of redressing this enormous Abuse.

We have collected a pretty exact Account, both of the Quantity and of the Value of the Tea vended from *Boulogne* last Year, as also of the Brandy; and likewise what Quantity of Wool was smuggled into *Boulogne*; all which, when called upon, we are ready to lay before your GRACE.

We have the Honour to subscribe ourselves

Your GRACE's

most obedient Servants.





The Quantity, and the Value of last Year's Import of Brandy and Tea, at Boulogne, to be smuggled into England upon the opposite Coast, between October 1754 and October 1755,

Also an Account of the Quantity of English Wool run from the Coast of Suffex, Kent, and Romney-Marsh, &c.

With the Names of the English Smugglers.

Whereby appears an infinite Injury to the Nation, viz.

First, In carrying away 200,000 Sterling in Money.

Secondly, In carrying away our Wool to the French Manufactures.

Thirdly, In bringing back two needless Articles, Tea and French Brandy; the Brandy, in particular, a worse Commodity than our Malt-Spirits, which should rather be promoted, because the Consumption
of

of that brings a large Revenue to the Crown, and the Landlord and Farmer gains thereby a good Price for damaged Corn.

The Tea, as *per* other Side, is averaged at 30 *l.* *Sterling per* Chest, taking two Chests of *Green* to one of *Bohea*; so that 5189 Chests at 186 *lb.* weight each Chest, amounts to 430 *Tons*, 17 *C.* 1 *qr.* 23 *lb.*

The Brandy is averaged at 10 *l.* *Sterling per* Pipe.



Merchants Names at <i>Boulogne</i> , Importers of Tea and Brandy, 1754.	Number of Chests of Tea	Value of the Tea	Number of Pipes of Brandy	Value of the Brandy
	N ^o Chests	£ Sterling	Pipes	£ Sterling
Monf. <i>John L'Sablaniere</i> }	950	28500	400	4000
Widow <i>Frereccoc</i> and Son }	600	18000	321	3210
Monf. <i>John Coilliot</i>	800	24000	500	5000
Monf. <i>Wm. Coilliot</i>	500	15000	400	4000
Monf. <i>Vaillant</i>	500	15000	429	4290
Monf. <i>John Barbe</i>	200	6000	---	---
Captain <i>Coilliot</i>	200	6000	---	---
Monf. <i>Stephen L'Sablaniere</i> }	400	12000	200	2000
Monf. <i>Clary and Son</i>	400	12000	500	5000
Monf. <i>L'Coilliot</i> on the Key }	200	6000	---	---
Monf. <i>Merlin</i>	50	1500	511	5110
To sundry small Dealers of different Marks, which we could not make out for fear of being thought Spies. }	189	5670	---	---
Monf. <i>Germain & Dallet</i> }	---	---	450	4500
	5189	155670 39110	3911	39110

Carried over to *Boulogne* last Year, exclusive of what is carried to *Calais* and *Dunkirk* } 194780 £ Sterling Money

An Account of the Quantity of Wool run into Boulogne; during the dark Nights and bad Weather, betwixt October 1754, and March last, 1755.

Merchants in <i>Boulogne</i> , to whom, in general, the Smugglers sell the Wool.	Combed Wool	Fleece Wool
	Packs	Packs
Monf. <i>Becquereb</i>	109	87
Monf. <i>James Coilliot</i>	146	55
Monf. <i>William Coilliot</i>	83	36
Monf. <i>John L' Bell</i>	94	48
Monf. <i>Hamorell</i>	---	42
Monf. <i>Germain Dallet</i>	17	38
	449	306

We have not set down the Value of the Wool, because, notwithstanding that the *French* pay ready Money for that Article, and are willing to allow 100 *per Cent.* Profit, yet the Wisdom of our Laws has severely forbid the carrying it to them.

This

This is an Affair very grievous and provoking, and the little Tricks made use of by the *French*, in combination with the Owlers, may deserve your Notice, *viz.* An *English* Vessel gives a Signal, whereby it is understood that they have Wool on Board, and thereupon a Boat puts off immediately, and takes Possession of the Vessel, brings her into the Harbour, and unloads the Wool, the *English* not appearing till the Wool is landed; and thus they think themselves screened from any Trouble or Information in *England*. But we happened to lodge near the *Custom-House*, and have often seen and watched the Farce. The Wool is sent away to *Amiens*, where they carry on a great Manufacture of Stuffs; and sometimes to *Abbeville*, for the cloathing Manufacture.

Names

*Names of the English Smugglers who come
two or three times a Week to Boulogne.*

<i>Capt. Ivason</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Capt. Kerby</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Capt. Stephenson</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Ditto D. Pierpoint</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Ditto H. Pierpoint</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>John Pellet</i>	and his Crew	a Boat
<i>Bold Robin</i>	and his Crew	a Cutter
<i>John Mills</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>William Holden</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>John French</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>John Turner</i>	and his Crew	a Cutter
<i>John Lock</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>— Jervice</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>Tall-Boy</i>	and his Crew	a Merchant
<i>Dick Wood</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>— Farley</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Leb. Moffit</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Tom Aylesbury</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>— Knight</i>	and his Crew	a Hoverer
<i>Buck Wingfield</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Dick Hall</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Tom Hall</i>	and his Crew	a Cutter
<i>— Johnson of Dover</i>	and his Crew	a Hoverer
<i>— Davise</i>	and his Crew	a Hoverer

Turner

<i>Turner and Colebrun</i>	and their Crew	Merchants
<i>— Ward</i>	and his Crew	a Cutter
<i>— Bumbos</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>— Ball</i>	and his Crew	a Hoveler
<i>— Diggs</i>	and his Crew	a Hoveler
<i>— Crowcher</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Jeffery Walton</i>	and his Crew	a large Boat
<i>John Walker</i>	and his Crew	ditto
<i>Tom Jasper</i>	and his Crew	a Hoveler
<i>Tom Green</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Bob Phillips</i>	and his Crew	a large Cutter
<i>Sam Phillips</i>	and his Crew	a Hoveler

N. B. Several of these Cutters are 70 Tons Burden, and the least are 30 Tons; so if they make one or two Trips a Week to *Boulogne*, the Quantity must be very considerable in a whole Year.





A

SUPPLEMENT

BY

WAY OF ADDRESS,

TO THE

MERCHANTS *of London, Malt-Distillers, Dealers in Tea, and those in the Woollen-Manufacture, relative to the preceding MEMORIAL.*

GENTLEMEN,

IT may be naturally expected that such a trading Nation as *Great Britain*, should listen to every judicious Hint which may serve to put a Stop to a clandestine Branch of Trade carried on with *France*. This Information, founded on the strictest Truth, well deserves your Notice. For

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no

no honest or wise Man would wish to see the Continuance of a Trade, big with all the Mischiefs described in the foregoing Memorial, especially at this time, considering the State of the Nation, the Load of the public Debt, the Difficulty of laying new Taxes, and the Expence of a War, in which we are like to be embroiled with a neighbouring Power. Upon serious Reflection, Gentlemen, you will find that this Affair is no mean Article of [the prodigious Drain of Money from *Britain* to *France*. No less than 200,000 *l.* a Year by the Importation of *French* Cambrics and Lawns, 100,000 *l.* a Year by *French* Brandy and Foreign Spirits, and 200,000 *l.* a Year by Tea. These Sums added together, amount to half a Million of Money, which is equal to a Land-Tax of One Shilling in the Pound.

Should not this serve to quicken the Resolutions of the Parliament, to put an effectual Stop to such a pernicious Branch of Trade and Commerce carried on in the Channel, in Defiance of the Laws?

'Tis

'Tis well known, that many Acts of the Legislature are sufficiently declarative of the national Injury we have long sustained: but the Remedy provided hath not been adequate to the Disease; and we are sorry to say, that it never will, till another Branch of the Revenue, not the *Customs*, but the *Excise*, shall send out proper Officers with their Boats, to keep a good Look-out after the Delinquents.

The Observations in the foregoing Memorial, relating to the Trade of Tea, Brandy, and Wool, were collected by two private Persons, persecuted by Fortune, who lately resided at *Boulogne*, waiting the Event of a tedious *Chancery* Suit, so that they had ocular Proof of every thing they advance. The Point in Question, as described by them, is of great Moment to this Kingdom, and we hope that Truth will be properly regarded by the Public, whether collected by private Hands, without Fee or Reward, or by those in Office.

Gentlemen who have lately been at *Dunkirk*, may have heard that a certain

English Engineer was sent thither to observe and inspect the Works which the *French* are carrying on by a new Canal, and the Opening of *Dunkirk* Harbour: If his Report is satisfactory to the Public, we shall say no more on that Head: However, we are confident that the Facts stated in this Memorial are true; as a Proof whereof we earnestly wish, that the Ministry would be pleased to send over to *Boulogne* a proper Person likewise, to whom we will engage to give sufficient Demonstration of the several Facts which are here asserted. The Intrepidity of two Strangers, in a Country and Government like *France*, undertaking we may say, with a Rope about their Necks, to sound the Depth of an illicit Trade, which the *French* are so very desirous to conceal, is indeed a Matter of some Surprise. If they ventured upon this dangerous Inquiry, from an honourable Motive, *viz.* the Service of their Country, surely they deserve a grateful Return.

Whatever may have been their Motive, let us not forget to commemorate

morate the Boldness of our worthy
 Countrymen upon the *Kent* and *Sussex*
 Coast, honest Gentlemen! who out of
 pure Regard to their King and Country,
 dare to send over our *Custom-House* Boats
 to *Boulogne* for *French* Claret; besides, al-
 most every Week freighting the Smugglers
 Boats with Hampers of *Champagne* and
Burgundy Wine, that so their elegant
 Tastes may be fully supplied. For their
 Tables on Shore are as plentifully fur-
 nished as those of the *British* Nobility.
 The Smugglers and the *French* know all
 this to be true; and if the Gentry of
 the *Customs* deny the Charge, we are able
 to go to Particulars, and will undertake to
 prove it upon them by Affidavits of their
 own People.

But whence comes it, that the Laws
 of *England* are thus disregarded? What
 People, except the *French*, and those before-
 mentioned, are the better for this villainous
 Employ? Let the Merchants and whole-
 sale Dealers of *London*, consider the Con-
 sequence of this pernicious Trade, and
 how it often affects their Property. As to
 the

the Country Shop-keepers, they 'only hazard their Creditors Money in this Employ: and if it happens that an *Exchequer* Process, or Information, is lodged against them, they make no further Conscience of it, but step aside to *France*, with all the Ready-money they can lay hands on, and there turn Agents for the Smugglers. To prove this Assertion, we need only mention three of these Renegadoes, tho' we could name a long List who have left *England*, and are since become Implements of more Mischief on the *French* side of the Water, *i. e.* *S--t--r* of *Calais*, *Ha--n--g* of *Dunkirk*, and *He--m--r* of *Boulogne*, in Partnership with *William Colliot*, condemn'd for Murder at *Lewis* Assizes. These three Men dealt last Year with the Smugglers for 50,000 *l.* but things are altered since their Banishment; for now *French* Goods are landed so easily, that the Success serves for Riot, and to uphold and support a wretched drunken Pack of Fellows, called *Land-Smugglers*; Fellows, with Gangs of Horses hovering about the Sea-coasts, who ought to be at Plough and Cart, instead of driving about
the

the Country; a disorderly Banditti, and who readily turn Highwaymen and Murderers upon the least Obstruction.

Let us look round the Coast of *Kent* and *Sussex*, and see what a profligate Spirit reigns amongst the Common-people; they will sooner hazard their Lives in a Smuggling Cutter, nay, in an open Boat, than enter on board a Man of War. The Farmer leaves his Plough, the Mechanic his Tools, the Shop-keeper turns smuggling Merchant; and all scorning to work, but pursuing their Pleasure, take to this idle and pernicious Course of Life. Thus from a brave, laborious, and diligent People, that used to supply the *British* Navy with the best of Pilots and Sailors, they are become Friends to the *French*, and Enemies to their native Country; they are become a skulking, idle, and insolent Crew of Desperadoes, determined on running Tea and Brandy, instead of chearfully entering on board a Man of War to fight the Enemy, and serve their King and Country. —

Melancholy Reflection!

But

But we would gladly ask any of these Men, which of them, with Truth and Reason, can say, even in time of Peace, that the Trade ought to be continued? Suppose 'tis the Farmer (Numbers of whom, dressed in Ploughmens Frocks, are daily at *Boulogne*) let him turn his Horses and his Servants to Husbandry. Suppose it is the Sailor, or coasting Smuggler, what Hardship for him to turn his Hands, and the Crew of his Cutter to Fishing? Suppose 'tis the Shop-keeper, who would be thought a Merchant, because he employs a Cutter to run Tea and Brandy from *France*; we can tell him that too many Insolvencies are occasioned by trusting the *London* Dealers Property in such wretched Hands. After all, we must admit that there is one Set of People who will have room to complain, *viz.* the *Custom-House* Officers! But perhaps no honest or wise Man will commiserate their Case.

Since then, none but the *French* are the better for this Trade, we may hope, ere long, to see the Towns of *Boulogne*, *Calais*, and *Dunkirk*, fall to Decay, in
point

point of Commerce, as fast as of late they have flourished. For though none can deny, but that the *French* have a Right to rebuild their Towns, and to repair their Harbours (*Dunkirk* excepted) yet the *English* have as much Right to see that *British* Subjects do not make those Towns the Thorough-fare through which Gold and Silver pass from us to the *French East-India* Company at *Port L' Orient*.

Upon the whole, we humbly hope that the Matter contained in this Memorial, does well deserve some Notice; that our present able and wise Ministry will think proper to watch every Step which may be taken by the *French*, for the Improvement of these Harbours in the *British* narrow Seas: and that our Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will not suffer a few Under-Clerks of the *Customs* to continue in a wilful and negligent Violation of a public Trust, such a Violation of Trust as calls for Redress. For who are they that shall dare to act in open and wilful Breach of the Laws? Shall *Custom-House* Officers be indulged in this pernicious
F. Practice,

Practice, because of a few Votes? at least we hope not! No, may the Government (as soon as Peace is established) take this enormous Abuse into Consideration, and not suffer that the *French East-India* Company, by the Assistance of our Smugglers, and the Connivance of our *Custom-House* Officers, should do more Harm upon the Coasts of *Kent* and *Sussex*, than they are able to effect upon the Coasts of *Malabar* and *Coromandel*. How far this clandestine Trade has contributed to raise the Credit of their *India* Actions, we leave to your impartial Judgment to determine. We are, &c. &c.





March 25, 1755.

The following are some of our Proposals for Redress of the before-mentioned Abuse, viz.

I.

TO have four Cutters built, either at *Folkstone* or *Dover*, as we would direct, each Cutter to be equipp'd with Chests of Arms, &c. &c.

II.

To begin to suppress the Smuggling-Trade on or about *October* next, that being the Time when the next Cargoes of Tea will come from *Port L'Orient*.

III.

These Boats to be employed betwixt *Blackness*, *Ambletuse*, and *Outreau*, whereby no Complaint can arise of the blocking up *Boulogne Harbour*.

IV.

Three or four Boats employed in this manner, would break half the Tea and Brandy-Merchants of *Boulogne* in fix Months time, would occasion all the Bills to be protested which are given to pay the Company, and injure them more than to besiege their City. *N. B.* Our Smugglers carry over to *Boulogne* 3000 *l.* a Week, and upwards; may it please the Legislature to put a Stop to that for a few Years, and then see to what Height their *India* Actions will arise.

V.

These Boats, under the Direction of the Commissioners of *Excise*, would make the *Custom-House* Boats do their Duty, or else all the Seizures must fall to their Share who will be most diligent.

VI.

To search the Smugglers Cutters, outward bound for *Sterling* Money; a Matter hitherto intirely neglected, though, as we have said before, they carry to *Boulogne*

logne 3000 *l.* a Week, and mostly in *Guineas*.

VII.

To keep Agents in *Boulogne*, *Calais*, and *Dunkirk*, to give Intelligence of all the Smugglers Steps, their Times of coming and going, and what Cargoes.

N. B. This may be thought very difficult to undertake, but we know it may be done.

VIII.

The Captain of each of these *Excise* Boats to be enabled to pay for Intelligence; the Smugglers being all Rogues, will take Money to betray each other.

IX.

The Smugglers have an annual Custom of choosing an Officer, one of their own Gang, whom they dub the Captain of the Port for that Year; this Person is stationed on *Cæsar's Fort*, with a Telescope, to descry what Custom-House Boats are cruising; like the Centinel placed on the cloud-capped Rocks, over the Fort of *Gibraltar*,

Gibraltar, hanging out a Number of Balls, signifying how many Vessels are in sight. The *French* Merchants pay great Respect to this Man, and consider him as a sort of Consul to a Fraternity of *English* Outlaws, Murderers, and Felons, such as are now at *Boulogne*, the Scum and Off-scouring of *Britain*; a Crew of Ragamuffins, that are ready to pistol an *Englishman*, if he ventures to speak a Word about their pernicious Trade. 'Twas these Men that brought the Mayor and his Officers, the Commandant, and a Party of Soldiers, upon the 19th of *December* last, to search our Lodgings at *Monf. Becquerel's*, only because we had been asking a few Questions.

X.

Tea and Brandy, being Commodities cognizable under *Excise* Laws, we apprehend it will not appear absurd to recommend these Boats to pass under the Direction of the Commissioners of the Duties.

The

XI.

The Legislature has effectually disarm-
ed the Smugglers ; little or nothing more
is wanting, than quick Sailing-boats to
come up with them ; let the Custom-
House People deny this if they can, with
Truth and Reason.

XII.

To conclude, If the Matter complain'd
of ought, or is intended to be redress'd ;
the Remedy is apparent, *viz.* There is
no Difficulty to have four or five Boats
built upon the same Model with the
Smugglers Boats, and to have them as
well rigg'd, and as well manned ; put a
Chest of Arms into each Boat, which the
Smugglers dare not carry, and Smuggling
is no more.

During this critical time of making
Reprisals, and also if War should be de-
clared, we humbly recommend to the
Captains of his Majesty's Sloops of War
and Tenders, not to spare the Smug-
glers ;

glers; assuring them, that the seizing their Cutters, and sending the Crews on board a Man of War, will be doing a public Benefit.

If we only reflect, that the Towns of *Dunkirk*, *Calais*, and *Boulogne*, are able merely by the Advantage and Opportunity of their Situation, to afford a Retreat to all the Corsairs, and by their means to throw into *England*, from those three Places, not less than eight or nine thousand Pipes of foreign Spirits yearly; surely we must allow, that the Means of preventing that Abuse, is a Matter not to be neglected. And we purposely insist thereon, to shew what a fatal Error it is to suffer this Trade to continue: For if it be considered, that the Importation of eight or nine thousand Pipes of Spirits, deprives the *British* Distillery of so much Manufacture, gives Employment to the Poor of other Countries, and enriches those Countries in proportion as it impoverishes our own, and makes our Poor still poorer; does it not become the Wisdom

dom of the Nation to save these Outgoings of our Treasure?

It is indeed to be lamented, that there is such a Nest of Vermin (called *English*) on the *French* Side of the Water, who have united such an Understanding between the *French* Merchant-Adventurers and our lawless Smugglers, that the Evil, like a consuming Canker, robs this Kingdom of its Bullion, and, of what is still of greater Value than Silver and Gold, its Wool. These are continually exported for Tea, Wine, and Brandy, not such Brandy as comes from *Cogniac* and *Nantz*; nor half so good as our own Malt Spirits; but such as is brought from *Rochelle*, *Cette*, and *Barcelona*, the vile Extracts of every cheap Ingredient, from which they draw a Spirit, beside what they get from the Low Wines, &c. which, together with the Tricks that the *Boulogne* Coopers practise, make a Compound (in Quality) fit to destroy an Army of *Negroes*; a Consideration worthy of the Regard of the Commissioners

tioners of the Navy, and of the Victualling-Office, and the Lords of the Admiralty.

“ May that Great God who presides
 “ over Human Affairs, and in whose
 “ Hands are the Fates of Nations,
 “ continue his Blessings to this Land!
 “ May his Majesty, by great and re-
 “ peated Victories, soon reduce his
 “ Enemies into a Necessity of de-
 “ fending their own, instead of in-
 “ vading the Dominions and Terri-
 “ tories of others! And may the
 “ whole *English* Nation be excited
 “ into a generous Compassion of
 “ those Dangers that surround our
 “ Trade, Colonies, and Plantations!
 “ And as soon as Peace is proclaim-
 “ ed and re-established, may an End
 “ be put to the pernicious Trade of
 “ Smuggling from *France*! For
 “ which we shall ever pray.



*A short Description of Boulogne,
Calais and Dunkirk.*

Boulogne is situated on the Sea-shore, at the Distance of twenty Miles from the Town of *Calais* to the South, ten Leagues from the nearest Coast of *England*, fifteen Miles from *Montrevil*, and thirty-six from *Abbeville* to the North. It is divided into the upper and lower Town, the former being well fortified with a strong Citadel ; and has a cathedral Church with some Monasteries. The lower Town, of late Years, is become considerable for its Traffic with the *English* Smugglers, and extends along the Port at the Mouth of the River *Liane*. Near the Harbour formerly stood a Watch-Tower, called *La Tour de Ordre*, and by the *English*, *The Old Man*, said to have been built by *Julius Cæsar*, and repaired by the Emperor *Charles the Great* ; but being neglected, is now fallen down. *Boulogne* was taken by *Henry*

the VIIIth; King of *England*, in 1544, and afterwards restored to the *French* King *Henry II.* by a Treaty of Peace, 1550.

Calais is seated in a marshy Plain, on the Coasts of the *British* narrow Sea, called from thence *The Strait of Calais*, at the Distance of nine Miles from *Gravelin* and the Confines of *Flanders* to the West, about seven Leagues from *Dover*, and the nearest Shore of *England* to the South-west. Its Fortifications consist of nine royal Bastions, besides those of the Citadel, and many other Outworks, all lined with Stone; it is also encompassed with a very large and deep Ditch, into which falls the River *Hames*, as well as a great Number of other Brooks, after having passed through the adjacent Fens with which it is surrounded. There is only one Passage to the Town, over a Causeway, commonly called, *The Bridge of Niculley*; and none can enter, without the Permission of the Garrison of the *Riccbank*, into the Port, which is divided into two Parts; one
whereof

whereof is named *Cape de Grey*; the other is larger, and shut up between two Moles built of Stone. The Town is extended in Form of a Triangle, with a Castle. The most remarkable Things in it are two stately Towers. The Altar of the grand Church is all of wrought Marble, and its Dome extremely magnificent. In the Marshes are to be seen floating Islands, and Sluces, by which the Country may be overflowed within a little Space of time. *Edward* the Third King of *England*, took the Town of *Calais* from the *French*, *Anno Domini*, 1347; but they, at length, recovered it, under the Conduct of the Duke of *Guise*, in 1558, after the *English* had possessed it above 210 Years,

Dunkirk is situated on the Shoar of the *German* Ocean, twenty Miles from *Calais*. It is a large Town, well built, with neat Streets, and very populous. Here, a great Part of the Fleet design'd to invade *England* in 1743, was equipped, and the Embarkation of a considerable
Body

Body of Troops actually made, with Ships of War sent into the Channel to support the said Embarkation, notoriously designed in Favour of the *Pretender*. Since then, the *French* have been repairing the Fortifications, and erecting new Works, in Breach of Treaties, whereby the Harbour is capable of receiving Ships of five hundred Tons Burden; and have cut a Canal, a Work of vast Labour, Art, and Expence, to scour out and deepen the Harbour. And besides the building strong Walls and Ravelins, Half-Moons and Counterscarps, they have repaired a strong Fort called the *Rice-Bank*; and on both sides the Harbour are Forts with Cannon planted on them.

F I N I S.

